

# Lesson 37

## Words To Learn This Week

heir  
majestic  
dwindle  
surplus  
traitor  
deliberate  
vandal  
drought  
abide  
unify  
summit  
heed

"Zounds! I was never so bethump'd with words  
Since I first call'd my brother's father dad."

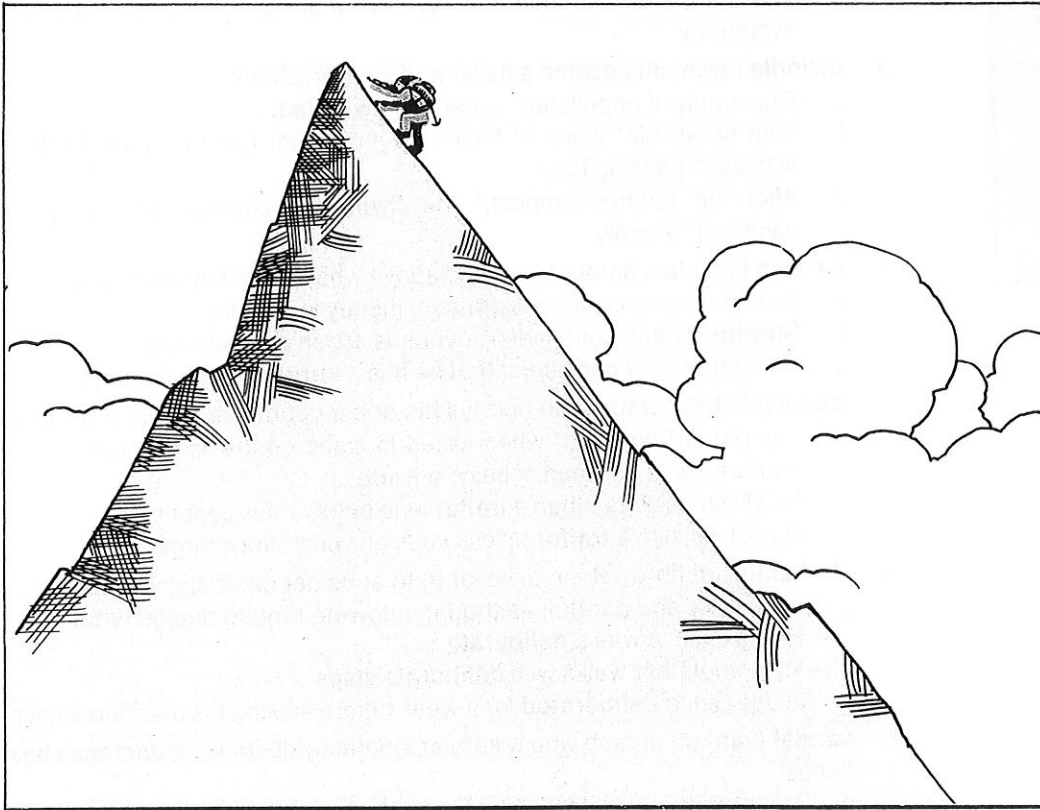
—Shakespeare, *King John*

1. **heir** (ā̃r) person who has a right to someone's property after that one dies; person who inherits anything
  - a. Though Mr. Sloane is the **heir** to a gold mine, he lives like a miser.\*
  - b. The monarch\* died before he could name an **heir** to the throne.
  - c. It is essential\* that we locate the rightful **heir** at once.
2. **majestic** (mə jes' tik) grand; noble; dignified; kingly
  - a. The lion is the most **majestic** creature of the jungle.
  - b. In Greek mythology,\* Mt. Olympus was the **majestic** home of the gods.
  - c. The graduates marched into the auditorium to the music of the **majestic** symphony.
3. **dwindle** (dwin' dl) become smaller and smaller; shrink
  - a. Our supply of unpolluted\* water has **dwindled**.
  - b. With no visible\* signs of their ship, hopes for the men's safety **dwindled** with each passing hour.
  - c. After the furious tempest,\* the **dwindling** chances of finding the raft vanished\* entirely.
4. **surplus** (sir' pləs) amount over and above what is needed; excess, extra
  - a. The bank keeps a large **surplus** of money in reserve.
  - b. **Surplus** wheat, cotton, and soybeans are shipped abroad.\*
  - c. No mortal\* ever considers\* that he has a **surplus** of good things.
5. **traitor** (trā' ter) person who betrays his or her country, a friend, duty, etc.
  - a. The patriot\* sneered\* when asked to stand on the same platform with the man who was accused of being a **traitor**.
  - b. No villain\* is worse than a **traitor** who betrays\* his country.
  - c. Do not call him a **traitor** unless you can verify\* the charge.
6. **deliberate** (di lib' ər āt or di lib' ər it) to consider carefully; intended; done on purpose; slow and careful, as though allowing time to decide what to do
  - a. Rico's excuse was a **deliberate** lie.
  - b. My grandfather walks with **deliberate** steps.
  - c. Judge Sirica **deliberated** for a week before making his decision known.
7. **vandal** (van' dl) person who wilfully or ignorantly destroys or damages beautiful things
  - a. Adolescent\* **vandals** wrecked the cafeteria.
  - b. The **vandals** deliberately\* ripped the paintings from the wall.
  - c. We could scarcely\* believe the damage caused by the **vandals**.
8. **drought** (drou) long period of dry weather; lack of rain; lack of water; dryness
  - a. Because of the **drought**, some farmers began to migrate\* to more fertile\* regions.
  - b. In time of **drought**, the crops become scorched.\*
  - c. As the **drought** wore on, people began to grumble against those who had squandered\* water when it was more plentiful.
9. **abide** (ə bīd') accept and follow out; remain faithful to; dwell; endure
  - a. The team decided unanimously\* to **abide** by the captain's ruling.
  - b. Senator Ervin **abided** by his promise not to allow demonstrations in the committee room.
  - c. My mother cannot **abide** dirt and vermin.\*
10. **unify** (ū' nə fī) unite; make or form into one
  - a. The novel\* traces the developments that **unified** the family.
  - b. After the Civil War our country became **unified** more strongly.

- c. It takes a great deal of training to **unify** all these recruits into an efficient fighting machine.
11. **summit** (sum' it) highest point; top
- We estimated\* the **summit** of the mountain to be twenty thousand feet.
  - Do not underestimate\* Ruth's ambition to reach the **summit** of the acting profession.
  - The **summit** meeting of world leaders diminished\* the threat\* of war.
12. **heed** (hēd) give careful attention to; take notice of; careful attention
- I demand that you **heed** what I say.
  - Florence pays no **heed** to what the signs say.
  - Take **heed** and be on guard against those who try to deceive\* you.

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Which of the words studied in this lesson is suggested by the picture?



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Read the following passage to see how the new words are used in it.

### Listen to Smoky the Bear

At one time the United States was **heir** to great riches, for more than half of our country was covered with forests. Now the **majestic** woodlands have **dwindled** to the point where we have no **surplus** of trees. Of course, only a **traitor** to the beauties of nature would **deliberately** set a forest fire, but careless citizens are the **vandals** who are responsible for much of the destruction. In time of **drought** especially, scorching\* fires started by careless smokers can reduce a beautiful forest to acres of blackened stumps.

Theodore Roosevelt understood that we cannot **abide**

the continual loss of our precious forests but we must learn to live in harmony\* with nature. In 1905 he appointed\* Gifford Pinchot to head the Forest Service which promptly\* began to **unify** efforts in caring for our national forests. The modern forest rangers, from the "lookouts" stationed on mountain **summits** to the "smokejumpers" who parachute from airplanes to fight fires, ask us to **heed** the advice of Smoky the Bear, who has become their symbol.\* Smoky says, "Only you can prevent forest fires."